



The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in Ohio



Overview

The National Fire Plan implements program activities in five key areas across the landscape. These key points are designed to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. Estimated Fire Plan allocations to Ohio include (\$ in thousands):

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Treatment	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance				TOTAL
Preparedness	Facilities				State Fire Assistance	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Economic Action Programs	Comm'ty & PrivateLand Fire Assist..	
389	0	0	160	400	202	100	0	0	1,751

* Includes \$500,000 for Research and Development activities in Ohio in support of the National Fire Plan.

Firefighting Resources

Staffing the most efficient organizational level (MEL) to provide prompt initial attack suppression on wildfires.

- Preparedness Organization - Increase resources within the 20-state **Eastern Region** to 125 engines, 17 dozers, 525 preparedness positions and one Interagency Hotshot Crew.
- Workforce Development - 274 new hires planned within the 20-state **Eastern Region** (includes seasonal, temporary, and conversions to permanent). Three positions have been filled on the Wayne NF (one Fire Management Officer, an Assistant, and one firefighter.)
- Fire Facilities - Invest in Regional facilities planning support, at a cost of approximately \$2 million.
- Federal Excess Personal Property - Inventory value of equipment and material loaned to state fire organizations and their cooperators in Ohio exceeds \$4 million.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Targeting fuel management and reduction on high priority areas, especially wildland-urban interface areas.

- Fuel reduction and hazard mitigation activities proposed on non-federal lands.
- Forest Health Management activities have protected more than 27,000 acres from invasive species.
- \$500,000 will support long-term prescribed fire and fire and thinning studies. Scientists will study the effects of fire weather, fuels, and topography on fire behavior and smoke management in the

central hardwoods and Appalachian coniferous forests. A multi-disciplinary group of scientists will also investigate the effects of fire and/or thinning on regeneration, vegetation dynamics, wildlife habitat, and below ground processes. Together, models of fire behavior and species-specific fire effects will build better understanding of how fire and/or thinning may be used to restore fire-dependent ecosystems.

Community Assistance

Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities.

- \$80,000 in State Fire Assistance will increase organizational and preparedness skills to assist with firefighting efforts, and \$102,000 will support Hazard Mitigation activities. Grants will be used for training and education, fuel reduction and hazard mitigation, equipment, and integration of remote weather station data. An additional \$123,000 is allocated in base program funds.
- \$100,000 in Volunteer Fire Assistance will support training and equipment to meet the needs of a portion of the 900 rural volunteer fire departments in Ohio. An additional \$141,000 is allocated in base program funds.
- \$985,000 in National Fire Plan Community Assistance will support activities across the 20 northeastern states. Included are:
 - Economic Action Programs to develop and expand markets for wood products from removed fuels;
 - Community and Private Land Assistance to enhance fire planning in communities, enhance stewardship planning, and fund fuel management.

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